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http://www.kokomotribune.com/news/question-time-tax-free-diapers-feminine-hygiene/article_7ee70f4c-c884-11e5-bb6d-8335820f0bff.html

Question Time: Tax-free diapers, feminine hygiene?

Should these items be exempt from fees?

[**Editor's note:** To participate in future queries, keep an eye on our Twitter and Facebook accounts.]

Introduced Wednesday into the Utah State Legislature by Rep. Susan Duckworth, D-Magna, House Bill 202 would exempt diapers and feminine hygiene products from state sales tax.

A similar suggestion by Indianapolis Democrat Rep. Christina Hale to amend Indiana House Bill 1046 was shot down by Republicans in the Statehouse on Thursday after being proposed for the first time in our state.

"A separate amendment for diapers received five Republican votes but still failed decisively," reported The Journal Gazette's Niki Kelly on Thursday. "A California bill to eliminate sales tax on feminine hygiene products could cost that state \$20 million annually."

These plans are part of a larger campaign — both in America and around the world — but supporters still have a long way to go.

“Only five states have actively made decisions not to tax tampons: Maryland, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Minnesota and New Jersey,” reported Fusion’s Taryn Hillin on June 3, 2015. “The rest either don’t have a sales tax or don’t consider tampons a ‘necessity.’ Notably, some states don’t tax items such as pregnancy tests (Colorado), disposable heating pads (Vermont), or incontinence pads for bladder dysfunction (North Dakota, Connecticut)—but still tax tampons.”

So, we wanted to know: “Do you support this proposal? Why or why not?”

No

“Go visit Africa. These items are definitely a luxury.” — **Sean Henderson**

“Well, strictly speaking diapers and tampons aren't necessary. The human race has survived quite a long time without these items.” — **Eddie Green**

“If you’re worried about the price of diapers, maybe don't have kids? Or, adopt kids that are older.” — **Michael John**

“Pander much?” — **Keith Robertson**

“Sounds stupid to me. Will they include toilet paper? It's necessary. What about tissue? Runny noses happen. What about colds? No cure, so over the counter meds should be tax free also. And deodorant? Toothpaste? Shampoo and conditioner? Soap? Where does it end?” — **Deanna Mechael**

McKenney

“I live in [Duckworth's] district. I contacted her twice several months ago about fathers’ rights and she never responded. Nice to see that she is up to something really important.” — **Leuber Secsee**

Yes

“I support it for one reason: Diapers. Those who oppose it with this in mind are obviously not parents who have to put a percentage of their income into this product.” — **Philip Eissler**

“Because single women with children need all the help they can get. And, feminine hygiene products and diapers are essentials, not luxuries.” —

Sandy Cromwell

“I think it's a good idea. I have helped a low income family pay for feminine products for the four females in the [house] and it cost me at least \$25 per month. That's a lot of money for something you have no choice. And as far as men not using either product: Who helped make those babies that need those diapers? That can cost \$25 per week. Now look at how much that takes out of a family’s budget in a year. Not taxing these two items can help ... some.” — **Pat DeJong**

“When was the last time you had to buy diapers? Right now, that is not a cheap purchase for parents of pre-toilet trained children. And men do purchase those for children they are taking care of. So, making it a tax-free item frees up their budget for things like food and gas.” — **Philip Eissler**

“I fail to see how any problems could arise from this. Women don't choose to have their periods, and babies can't exactly control themselves, so it's not really fair that they have to pay a tax on top of the already high prices for the items.” — **Javier Reyes**

“I'm well past the age where I would be using ‘feminine products,’ but when I was buying them, I was always angry about having to pay sales tax on something so necessary. This is a great idea! Amazing that it took so long for a bill to be introduced and also amazing that I agree with a Democrat.”
— **Nora Eldridge**

Doesn't go far enough

“Add condoms to the list. Perhaps it will cut down on unexpected pregnancies!” — **Mimi Snooks**

“Add condoms and toilet paper ... the soft kind!” — **Jenna Gross**

“Really? Why can't they propose products for the deaf to be exempt from sales tax?” — **Kat Brockway**

“Maybe cloth diapers.” — **Barbe Ford**

“I would add on-the-shelf birth control.” — **Rebecca Briggs Cance**

“Personally, I support the abolition of sales tax. All taxes for that matter.” —
Jean-Pierre Milly

Our answers

“This seems like a helpful idea. I doubt it’d make a huge difference in savings, but every little bit helps, right? I only see positives here. Plus, I’ve changed baby sister and grandparent diapers (long story). A little extra cash seems more than earned.” — **Justin Chisham**

“I don't think I could support that bill. I mean, why those products and not others? I feel it'd just be a never-ending battle over what should be exempt for some reason or another to boost one side or the other's political agenda. In this case, it's appealing to women to save money on things they absolutely have to buy, which is a good marketing strategy and sounds great on paper, but where does it stop?” — **Kaylee Harden**

“This should just be the beginning. Indiana, like other states, already exempts most food, so this seems like the natural next step. (I also think toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, condoms and every other basic toiletry should be provided free by the government, but that’s a different discussion for another day.) And for those who say this will only help women: You are free to come shopping with me sometime as I buy supplies for my wife and son to see how much something like this would help me as a man who takes care of my family.” — **Rob Burgess**

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